

## Equality Impact Assessment

**Service Area:** Director of Resources

**Head of Service:** Jon Triggs

**Lead Officer:** Jon Triggs

**Date:** 23 January 2025

**Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed:**

Revenue Budget 2025-26, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2030-31

**Brief description of proposal to be assessed:**

The report notes the latest financial position for the current year and the proposed draft Budget for 2025-26 financial year. These figures will be the basis of the recommendation to Council on 26 February 2025 when the Council Tax levels for 2025-26 will be put forward for approval.

**Date of Assessment:**

23 January 2025

**Person responsible for completing the assessment:**

Jon Triggs

**Contact Details:**

(Insert your email address)

Jon.triggs@northdevon.gov.uk

**Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:**

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
Revenue Budget 2025-26, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-26 to 2030-31	Original budget for 2024-25 approved by Full Council in Feb 2024	<p>Report for members to note current financial position and recommend to Council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Council Tax increase of 2.99% (£6.29) per Band D property for 2025-26</li> <li>• the approval of 2025-26 revenue budget</li> <li>• adopt the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2025-2031</li> <li>• the approval of Capital Programme 2024-25 to 2026-27</li> </ul>	Incorporation of funding any new capital schemes outlined in section 4.2 of report.

## **Impact**

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

### Positive impact:

The Disabled Facility Grant programme has been included up to 2026-27 year (subject to annual confirmation of external funding from Better Care Fund).

There is no planned reduction to the funding level of Strategic Grants paid by North Devon Council for 2025-26 and maintains current funding levels; where there was originally a planned reduction outlined in an earlier Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The proposed increase to Council Tax is across the whole district and is a neutral impact as this affects all the Council Tax payers.

## **Consideration of Alternatives**

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):

The Disabled Facility Grant scheme will continue to be monitored to ensure we can allocate the full amount of grant allocated to us from the Better Care Fund.

## **Consultation**

Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

The draft budget has been produced and report has been written in consultation with all budget holders and Heads of Service. Service Plans have been produced by each Head of Service and taken through Senior Management Team and scrutinised at Policy Development Committee in January 2025.

Consultees of report going to Strategy and Resources committee 3 February 2025.

## **Monitoring Arrangements**

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal:

A quarterly performance and financial management report will be produced for Strategy and Resources Committee, Policy Development Committee and then onto Full Council; this report will detail monitoring against the approved budget.

External Audit carry out a Value for Money conclusion as part of their audit of financial statements and will report on the financial position against balancing the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy budget gaps.

## **Reporting and Publication**

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

### **Date published:**

NOTE: The completion of an Equality Impact Assessments is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published. A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

**Proposed implementation date of project/proposal:** 3 February 2025

### **Funding considerations:**

As outlined in the report

**Date approved by Head of Service:** 23 January 2025

### **Corporate and Community Services Use Only:**

Date of publication to NDC Website:

Date of Feedback (if required):

Feedback: